

**IN THE CLAIMS**

1. (Currently Amended) Plastic container ~~(10, 20)~~, especially one made of styrene and/or polyolefins, for the packaging and long-term storage of food products and the like, such as salads, fruit extracts, beverages in disposable portion packs for beverage vending machines, toothpaste, etc., wherein, the container comprising, to reduce the amount of oxygen penetrating the plastic container ~~(10-20)~~ closed plastic container ~~(10, 20)~~, in a closed portion thereof, the plastic container is provided with a coating that hinders the diffusion of oxygen, wherein the exterior and/or interior surface ~~(15, 25)~~ surfaces of the container ~~is~~ are coated with a coating ~~(30)~~ with oxygen barrier properties, and material of the coating ~~(30)~~ is being largely adapted to ~~the container~~ material and possibly to the contents of the container contents with respect to its properties, ~~for example, its selected from~~ mechanical strength, thermal expansion, and chemical resistance, ~~to the contents of the container, such that~~ wherein the coating materials used for the coating are based on modern epoxy resins or amine adducts, and wherein the coating has a thickness of 0.003 to 0.03mm.

2. (Currently Amended) Plastic container ~~(10, 20)~~ in accordance with Claim 1, wherein the coating ~~(30)~~ is applied by spray coating and/or dip coating only the outer surface or the entire freely accessible surface of the plastic container ~~(10, 20)~~ in one operation.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Currently Amended) Plastic container ~~(10, 20)~~ in accordance with Claim 3, wherein ~~one of the individual layers~~ the coating is a layer produced by metallization.

5. (Currently Amended) Plastic container ~~(10, 20)~~ in accordance with Claim 1, wherein, after it has been applied to the container surface ~~(15, 25)~~, the coating ~~(30)~~ is subjected to an aftertreatment that consists, for example, of heating or UV irradiation, e.g., for the purpose of drying it or curing it.

6. (Currently Amended) Plastic container ~~(10, 20)~~ in accordance with Claim 1, wherein the thickness of the finished coating ~~(30)~~ varies from is about 0.003 mm to 0.03 mm, and preferably from 0.003 mm to 0.03  $\mu$ m.

7. (Currently Amended) Plastic container ~~(10, 20)~~ in accordance with Claim 1, wherein the container surface ~~(15, 25)~~ to be coated is pretreated, ~~e.g.,~~ by flame treating, before it is coated and is then, for example, fat-free and/or dust-free and/or roughened.